

Reading/Writing Workshop Requirements for Fourth Quarter

Reading

Independent Books		
#1	Choice book on a social issue	Personal reflections as you read
#2	Historical Fiction – companion book to research	In class you will complete non-fiction research on your topic. You will keep your notes in a notebook.
#3	Award Winning Book	You will read the same book as 2-3 peers and you will dramatize a scene for the class.
Class Novels		
4/12-4/30	Civil Rights Books <u>Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry</u> , <u>Watson's Go To Birmingham</u>	Assignments and discussions as given by your teacher
5/3-5/21	Historical Fiction/Non-fiction parallel	You will spend class time researching questions you have about your historical fiction book as you read.
5/24 – 6/4	The Classics Literature Discussion Groups	Discussion logs as we have done in the past

Language Arts

Choice Paper	You can take any one of your process papers from the year and make final changes based on adult and teacher edits and turn it in as your best work. This piece will be placed in your permanent writing folder for future teachers to read and learn about you as a writer.
Persuasive Essay	You will write at least two persuasive essays on a social issue. Along with your writing partner, parents, and a teacher you will select one of the pieces to publish into final format and present to the class. Your goal is to get others to care about your topic and encourage them to take action.
Formal business letter	You will write a formal business letter to a business, organization, or charity related to a social issue. You can ask about how they help, ask for information, or ask how you can help. The Letter Generator tool at this site is very helpful. http://www.readwritethink.org/
Choice Assignment	You must complete at least one choice assignment with approval from a teacher.

Choices you have during workshop:

Writing on your own

Partner share/edit

Reading Corner – getting ideas, reviewing research that you printed out

Pod computer to research or write – platinum cards given preference

Hand-held computer in the classroom to type your work

Conference with teacher or another adult

What is a social issue?

A social issue is one that is not just personal it impacts others. These issues are bigger than us and outside of us but also impact our society. They may impact you directly or indirectly. Here is a formal definition: “a social issue is one in which the group that a person belongs to becomes a defining force without consent and causes, in many cases, a power imbalance, a limiting or expanding of opportunities and freedoms.” (source: *For a Better World: Reading and Writing for Social Action*)

Here are some issues you may want to consider learning more about:

Poverty

Racism

Divorce

Intolerance

Single parent homes/homelessness

Environmental issues

Abuse (physical/verbal)

Bullying

Treatment of those with disabilities

Self-acceptance

Other ideas/your notes: